

**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claims 1-28 as follows.

The following claims will replace all prior listing, or versions, of claims in the present application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing method for extracting a subset as a ~~processing object from a tabular format data~~ viewed ~~expressed~~ as an array of records, each record including ~~an item values and an item value~~ belonging to ~~item~~ the item, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~a step of constructing the tabular format data by creating~~ dividing it into information blocks corresponding to respective items, each information block including a first value list in which the item values are stored in order of item value numbers corresponding to the item values ~~belonging to a specific item~~ and a first pointer array in which pointer values ~~indicating to indicate~~ the item value numbers are stored in order of unique record numbers;

(b) ~~a step of creating, in response to selection of a subset as a part of the records,~~ an ordered set array containing ~~record~~ recording numbers of records selected from the array of the records, wherein the selected record numbers are arranged in a specified order in the ordered set array ~~the subset~~;

(c) ~~a step of arranging a pointer value in the~~ first pointer array at a position indicated by each of the record numbers of the ordered set array into an item value number array at a position corresponding ~~correspondingly~~ to ~~at~~ the position where the record number is arranged in the ordered set array; and

(d) ~~a step of creating a second value list storing value elements contained in the item value number array and a second pointer array storing position elements indicating elements in the second value list corresponding to the record numbers and a second value list storing value elements by referring to the value in the item value number array, and wherein~~

a value in the first value list is specified from a record number of the ordered set array through a first element in the second pointer array at a position ~~indicated~~ indicted by the record number and a second element in the second value list at a position indicated by the first element in the second pointer array.

2. (Currently Amended) The data processing method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ characterized in that the step of creating the second value list ~~pointer array and the step of creating the second pointer array include the steps of~~ value list includes:

~~a step of sorting the elements in the item value number array, creating a third array in a state where a duplicate value is excluded, and substituting the created third array for making this the second value list; and~~

~~a step of creating the second pointer array by converting the elements in the item value number array to reflect the sort of the elements in the item value number array and the exclusion of the duplicate value.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A data processing method for extracting a subset as a ~~processing object from a tabular format data viewed~~ expressed as an array of records, each record including an item and an item values ~~value belonging to item the item, the method comprising the steps of:~~

(a) ~~a step of constructing the tabular format data by creating~~ dividing it into information blocks corresponding to respective items, each information block including a

first value list in which the item values are stored in order of item value numbers corresponding to the item values ~~belonging to a specific item~~ and a first pointer array in which pointer values ~~indicating to indicate~~ the item value numbers are stored in order of unique record numbers;

(b) ~~a step of creating, in response to selection of a subset as a part of the records,~~ an ordered set array containing ~~record reordering~~ numbers of records selected from the array of records, wherein the selected record numbers are arranged in a specified order in the ordered set arraythe subset;

(c) ~~a step of arranging a pointer value in the~~ first pointer array at a position indicated by each of the record numbers of the ordered set array into an item value number array at a position corresponding to ~~the position where the record number is arranged in the ordered set array;~~ and

(d)~~e~~ ~~specifying a step of using the item value number array as a second value list and using the original value list as a second value list, and wherein~~  
~~—— a value in the~~ first value list is ~~specified from a record number of the ordered set array through an element in the~~ item value number ~~second pointer array at a position indicated~~ ~~dicted by the record number and an element in the second value list at a position indicated by the element in the second pointer array.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The data processing method according to claim 1, ~~characterized by further comprising the~~ step of:

comparing a size of the ordered set array with a size of the first value list,

wherein, as a result of the comparison, ~~when in a case where the size of the~~ ordered set array ~~subset is smaller than the size of the~~ first value list at a predetermined rate, ~~then the steps (c) and (d), e) and d) or the steps e) and e) are performed.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A retrieval method using the second pointer array, ~~or and/or~~ the second value list, or the second pointer array and the second value list created by the data processing method according to claim 1, wherein the retrieval method comprises the steps of ~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of~~ specifying an element indicating an item value as a retrieval object among elements in the second value list;

~~a step of~~ arraying a value indicating that a flag is on at a position corresponding to a position of the specified element in a flag array having the same size as the second value list;

~~a step of~~ specifying an element of the second pointer array indicated by a record number in the ordered set;

~~a step of~~ referring to a state of a flag at a position indicated by an element of the second pointer array in the flag array; and

~~a step of~~ successively arranging the record number into a newly provided ordered set array for output in a case where the state of the flag is on.

6. (Currently Amended) An aggregation method using the second pointer array, ~~or and/or~~ the second value list, or the second pointer array and the second value list created by the data processing method according to claim 1, wherein the aggregation method comprises the steps of ~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of~~ creating a classification number array in which a classification number indicating a category of a value is arranged correspondingly to an element of the second value list;

~~a step of~~ specifying a record number in the ordered set array corresponding to the specified classification number; and

~~a step of performing aggregation using a predetermined value list item value indicated~~  
by the specified record number.

7. (Currently Amended) A sort method using the second pointer array, or and/or the second value list, or the second pointer array and the second value list created by the data processing method according to claim 1, wherein the sort method comprises the steps of~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of calculating an existence number as the number of elements indicated by the second pointer array for each value of the second value list;~~

~~a step of creating, based on the existence number, a cumulative number array corresponding to a value of the second value list and indicating a head position at which a record number in the ordered set array is to be arranged; and~~

~~a step of referring to the cumulative array and arranging a record number of the ordered set array into an array for output so that a sort order of the item values in the value list is reflected.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A method of joining tabular format data by using the second pointer array, or and/or the second value list, or the second pointer array and the second value list in the information block relating to each of plural tabular format data created by the data processing method according to claim 1, wherein the method of joining tabular format data comprises that steps of~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of finding an item to be shared in each of the plural tabular format data;~~

~~a step of equating item values in the second value list of the information block relating to the item; and~~

~~a step of~~, in response to equating the item values, updating an element in the second pointer array in each of the information blocks in accordance with a change in arrangement of the item values.

9. (Currently Amended) A data processing program stored in memory of a computer ~~and for operating the~~ a computer to extract a subset ~~as a processing object from a~~ tabular format data ~~viewed~~ expressed as an array of records, each record including ~~an item values~~ and an item value belonging to ~~item~~ the item, wherein the data processing program ~~causes~~ causing the computer to execute the steps of:

(a) ~~a step of~~ constructing the tabular format data by creating ~~dividing it into~~ information blocks corresponding to respective items, each information block including a first value list in which the item values are stored in order of item value numbers corresponding to the item values ~~belonging to a specific item~~ and a first pointer array in which pointer values indicating ~~to indicate~~ the item value numbers are stored in order of unique record numbers;

(b) ~~a step of~~ creating, in response to selection of a subset as a part of the records, an ordered set array containing record ~~recording~~ numbers of records selected from the array of the records, wherein the selected record numbers are arranged in a specified order in the ordered set array ~~the subset~~;

(c) ~~a step of~~ arranging a pointer value in the first pointer array at a position indicated by each of the record numbers of the ordered set array into an item value number array at a position corresponding ~~correspondingly to~~ at the position where the record number is arranged in the ordered set array; and

(d) ~~a step of~~ creating a second value list storing value elements contained in the item value number array and a second pointer array storing position elements indicating elements

~~in the second value list corresponding to the record numbers and a second value list storing value elements by referring to the value in the item value number array, and wherein~~

the computer ~~operates so is operated such~~ that a value in the first value list is specified from a record number of the ordered set array through a first ~~an~~ element in the second pointer array at a position ~~indicated~~ indicted by the record number and a second ~~an~~ element in the second value list at a position indicated by the first element in the second pointer array.

10. (Currently Amended) The data processing program according to claim 9, ~~wherein~~ characterized in that

~~when in the step of creating the second value list~~ pointer array and the second pointer array ~~value list~~, the computer is made to execute the steps of:

~~a step of sorting the elements in the item value number array, creating a third~~ an array in a state where a duplicate value is excluded, and substituting the created third array ~~forming this~~ the second value list; and

~~a step of creating the second pointer array by converting the elements in the item value number array to reflect the sort of the elements in the item value number array and the exclusion of the duplicate value.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A data processing program stored in memory of a computer ~~and for operating the~~ a computer to extract a subset as a ~~processing object from a tabular~~ format data ~~viewed~~ expressed as an array of records, each record including an ~~item and an~~ item ~~values~~ value belonging to ~~item~~ the item, wherein the data processing program ~~causes~~ causing the computer to execute the steps of:

(a) ~~a step of constructing the tabular format data by creating~~ dividing it into information blocks corresponding to respective items, each information block including a

first value list in which the item values are stored in order of item value numbers corresponding to the item values ~~belonging to a specific item~~ and a first pointer array in which pointer values ~~indicating to indicate~~ the item value numbers are stored in order of unique record numbers;

(b) ~~a step of creating, in response to selection of a subset as a part of the records,~~ an ordered set array containing ~~record~~reordering numbers of records selected from the array of the records, wherein the selected record numbers are arranged in a specified order in the ordered set array~~the subset~~;

(c) ~~a step of arranging a pointer value in the~~ first pointer array at a position indicated by each of the record numbers of the ordered set array into an item value number array at a position corresponding~~correspondingly to a~~ the position where the record number is arranged in the ordered set array; and

e) ~~a step of using the item value number array as a second value list and using the original value list as a second value list, and wherein~~

———(d) the computer is ~~made to operated to specify~~such that a value in the first value list is ~~specified from a record number of the ordered set array through an element in the~~ item value number~~second pointer array at a position indicated~~indicted by the record number ~~and an element in the second value list at a position indicated by the element in the second pointer array.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The data processing program according to claim 9, wherein the program makes~~characterized in that~~ the computer is ~~made to execute~~ the a step of: comparing a size of the ordered set array with a size of the first value list, and



wherein, as a result of the comparison, ~~when in a case where the size of the ordered set array subset is smaller than the size of the first value list at a predetermined rate, then program makes the computer is made to execute the steps (c) and (d)e) and d) or the steps e) and e).~~

13. (Currently Amended) The data processing method according to claim 2, characterized by further comprising the step of:

comparing a size of the ordered set array with a size of the first value list,

wherein, as a result of the comparison, ~~when in a case where the size of the ordered set array subset is smaller than the size of the first value list at a predetermined rate, then the steps (c) and (d)e) and d) or the steps e) and e) are performed.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The data processing method according to claim 3, characterized by further comprising the step of:

comparing a size of the ordered set array with a size of the first value list,

wherein, as a result of the comparison, ~~when in a case where the size of the ordered set array subset is smaller than the size of the first value list at a predetermined rate, then the steps (c) and (d)e) and d) or the steps e) and e) are performed.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A retrieval method using the second pointer array, or ~~and/or~~ the second value list, or the second pointer array and the second value list created by the data processing method according to claim 2, wherein the retrieval method comprises the steps of ~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of~~ specifying an element indicating an item value as a retrieval object among elements in the second value list;

~~a step of~~ arraying a value indicating that a flag is on at a position corresponding to a position of the specified element in a flag array having the same size as the second value list;

~~a step of~~ specifying an element of the second pointer array indicated by a record number in the ordered set;

~~a step of~~ referring to a state of a flag at a position indicated by an element of the second pointer array in the flag array; and

~~a step of~~ successively arranging the record number into a newly provided ordered set array for output in a case where the state of the flag is on.

16. (Currently Amended) A retrieval method using the firstsecond pointer array, or and/or the firstsecond value list, or the first pointer array and the first value list created by the data processing method according to claim 3, wherein the retrieval method comprises the steps of ~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of~~ specifying an element indicating an item value as a retrieval object among elements in the firstsecond value list;

~~a step of~~ arraying a value indicating that a flag is on at a position corresponding to a position of the specified element in a flag array having the same size as the firstsecond value list;

~~a step of~~ specifying an element of the firstsecond pointer array indicated by a record number in the ordered set;

~~a step of~~ referring to a state of a flag at a position indicated by an element of the firstsecond pointer array in the flag array; and

~~a step of~~ successively arranging the record number into a newly provided ordered set array for output in a case where the state of the flag is on.

17. (Currently Amended) A retrieval method using the firstsecond pointer array, or and/or the firstsecond value list, or the first pointer array and the first value list created by the data processing method according to claim 4, wherein the retrieval method comprises the steps of~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of~~ specifying an element indicating an item value as a retrieval object among elements in the firstsecond value list;

~~a step of~~ arraying a value indicating that a flag is on at a position corresponding to a position of the specified element in a flag array having the same size as the firstsecond value list;

~~a step of~~ specifying an element of the firstsecond pointer array indicated by a record number in the ordered set;

~~a step of~~ referring to a state of a flag at a position indicated by an element of the firstsecond pointer array in the flag array; and

~~a step of~~ successively arranging the record number into a newly provided ordered set array for output in a case where the state of the flag is on.

18. (Currently Amended) An aggregation method using the second pointer array, or and/or the second value list, or the second pointer array and the second value list created by the data processing method according to claim 2, wherein the aggregation method comprises the steps of~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of~~ creating a classification number array in which a classification number indicating a category of a value is arranged correspondingly to an element of the second value list;

~~a step of~~ specifying a record number in the ordered set array corresponding to the specified classification number; and

~~a step of performing aggregation using a predetermined value list item value indicated~~  
by the specified record number.

19. (Currently Amended) An aggregation method using the firstsecond pointer array,  
~~or and/or the firstsecond value list, or the first pointer array and the first value list~~ created by  
the data processing method according to claim 3, wherein the aggregation method comprises  
the steps of~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of creating a classification number array in which a classification number~~  
indicating a category of a value is arranged correspondingly to an element of the firstsecond  
value list;

~~a step of specifying a record number in the ordered set array corresponding to the~~  
specified classification number; and

~~a step of performing aggregation using a predetermined value list item value indicated~~  
by the specified record number.

20. (Currently Amended) An aggregation method using the firstsecond pointer array,  
~~or and/or the firstsecond value list, or the first pointer array and the first value list~~ created by  
the data processing method according to claim 4, wherein the method comprises the steps  
of~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of creating a classification number array in which a classification number~~  
indicating a category of a value is arranged correspondingly to an element of the firstsecond  
value list;

~~a step of specifying a record number in the ordered set array corresponding to the~~  
specified classification number; and

~~a step of performing aggregation using a predetermined value list item value indicated~~  
by the specified record number.

21. (Currently Amended) A sort method using the second pointer array, ~~or and/or the~~  
second value list, ~~or the second pointer array and the second value list~~, created by the data  
processing method according to claim 2, wherein the sort method comprises the steps  
~~of~~ characterized by comprising:

~~a step of calculating an existence number as the number of elements indicated by the~~  
second pointer array for each value of the second value list;

~~a step of creating, based on the existence number, a cumulative number array~~  
corresponding to a value of the second value list and indicating a head position at which a  
record number in the ordered set array is to be arranged; and

~~a step of referring to the cumulative array and arranging a record number of the~~  
ordered set array into an array for output so that a sort order of the item values in the value  
list is reflected.

22. (Currently Amended) A sort method using the ~~first~~~~second~~ pointer array, ~~or~~  
~~and/or the~~ ~~first~~~~second~~ value list, ~~or the first pointer array and the first value list~~ created by the  
data processing method according to claim 3, wherein the sort method comprises the steps  
~~of~~ characterized by comprising:

~~a step of calculating an existence number as the number of elements indicated by the~~  
~~first~~~~second~~ pointer array for each value of the ~~first~~~~second~~ value list;

~~a step of creating, based on the existence number, a cumulative number array~~  
corresponding to a value of the ~~first~~~~second~~ value list and indicating a head position at which a  
record number in the ordered set array is to be arranged; and

~~a step of referring to the cumulative array and arranging a record number of the ordered set array into an array for output so that a sort order of the item values in the value list is reflected.~~

23. (Currently Amended) A sort method using the firstsecond pointer array, or ~~and/or~~ the firstsecond value list, or the first pointer array and the first value list created by the data processing method according to claim 4, wherein the sort method comprises the steps of ~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of calculating an existence number as the number of elements indicated by the firstsecond pointer array for each value of the firstsecond value list;~~

~~a step of creating, based on the existence number, a cumulative number array corresponding to a value of the firstsecond value list and indicating a head position at which a record number in the ordered set array is to be arranged; and~~

~~a step of referring to the cumulative array and arranging a record number of the ordered set array into an array for output so that a sort order of the item values in the value list is reflected.~~

24. (Currently Amended) A method of joining tabular format data by using the second pointer array, or ~~and/or~~ the second value list, or the second pointer array and the second value list in the information block relating to each of plural tabular format data created by the data processing method according to claim 2, wherein the method of joining tabular format data comprises ~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of finding an item to be shared in each of the plural tabular format data;~~

~~a step of equating item values in the second value list of the information block relating to the item; and~~

~~a step of,~~ in response to equating the item values, updating an element in the second pointer array in each of the information blocks in accordance with a change in arrangement of the item values.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of joining tabular format data by using the ~~firstsecond~~ pointer array, ~~or and/or~~ the ~~firstsecond~~ value list, or the first pointer array and the first value list in the information block relating to each of plural tabular format data created by the data processing method according to claim 3, wherein the method of joining tabular format data comprises the steps of~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of~~ finding an item to be shared in each of the plural tabular format data;

~~a step of~~ equating item values in the ~~firstsecond~~ value list of the information block relating to the item; and

~~a step of,~~ in response to equating the item values, updating an element in the ~~firstsecond~~ pointer array in each of the information blocks in accordance with a change in arrangement of the item values.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of joining tabular format data by using the ~~firstsecond~~ pointer array, ~~or and/or~~ the ~~firstsecond~~ value list, or the first pointer array and the first value list in the information block relating to each of plural tabular format data created by the data processing method according to claim 4, wherein the method of joining tabular format data comprises the steps of~~characterized by comprising:~~

~~a step of~~ finding an item to be shared in each of the plural tabular format data;

~~a step of~~ equating item values in the ~~firstsecond~~ value list of the information block relating to the item; and

~~a step of~~, in response to equating the item values, updating an element in the ~~first~~~~second~~ pointer array in each of the information blocks in accordance with a change in arrangement of the item values.

27. (Currently Amended) The data processing program according to claim 10, ~~wherein the program causes~~~~characterized in that~~ the computer is ~~made to~~ execute a step of comparing a size of the ordered set array with a size of the first value list, and

wherein, as a result of the comparison, ~~when in a case where~~ the size of the ordered set array~~subset~~ is smaller than the size of the first value list at a predetermined rate, the computer is made to execute the steps (c) and (d)~~e) and d) or the steps e) and e).~~

28. (Currently Amended) The data processing program according to claim 11, ~~wherein the program causes~~~~characterized in that~~ the computer is ~~made to~~ execute a step of comparing a size of the ordered set array with a size of the first value list, and

wherein, as a result of the comparison, ~~when in a case where~~ the size of the ordered set array~~subset~~ is smaller than the size of the first value list at a predetermined rate, the computer is made to execute the steps (c) and (d)~~e) and d) or the steps e) and e).~~